

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 5, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 17-20, 24-29, 31 and 31-32 are amended, claims 1-15 and 21-23 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 16-20 and 24-32 are now pending in this application.

#### **Claim Amendments**

Claims 17-20 were amended to correct grammatical errors and not for reasons of patentability.

#### **Objected Claims**

Claims 24, 25 and 31-32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested, Applicant has rewritten claims 24-25 and 31-32 in independent form.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 16-20 and 26-30.

#### **§103 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 1-15 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman et al. (U.S. 2002/0174067). Applicant has canceled claims 1-15 and 21-23, but reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

#### **Reservation of Rights**

Applicant does not admit that documents cited under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a), 102(e), 103/102(a), or 103/102(e) are prior art, and reserves the right to swear behind them at a later

date. Arguments presented to distinguish such documents should not be construed as admissions that the documents are prior art.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (408) 333-9972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

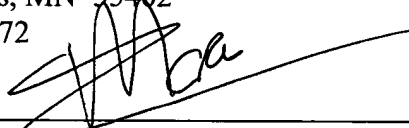
Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date 01/05/05

By   
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5th day of January, 2005.

Dawn R. Shaw

Name

  
Signature